

an important public health issue: the safety of dietary supplements. Over the past few years, we have heard about many tragedies linked to dietary supplements. This summer, America witnessed the deaths of some fine athletes.

One supplement in particular, Ephedrine, has received a lot of scrutiny. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has collected more than 800 reports of Ephedrine users suffering adverse reactions, ranging from dizziness and dementia to stroke, heart attack, and sudden death. While these reports indicate that Ephedrine may be dangerous, the FDA does not have enough information to prove or disprove it is unsafe.

Current law is preventing the FDA from collecting additional adverse event reports. It also prevents the agency from asking supplement companies for copies of their safety studies. Without this information, the FDA cannot adequately research the risks and benefits of dietary supplements. This is simply unacceptable.

Congress has the authority and the obligation to protect American consumers. It is time for Congress to stop standing on the sidelines. We must take action.

We need to stand up for Tammy Cole, a 35-year-old San Diego resident who suffered panic attacks, chest pain, and insomnia after taking an ephedra supplement for one month.

We need to stand up for Sarah Ingham, a 24-year-old Manassas resident who suffered a stroke in the spring of 2000. She had been taking an ephedra supplement to lose weight for her wedding.

We need to stand up for Rosanna Porras, a 15-year-old Californian who died on a high school soccer field from a massive heart attack. Her parents believe that ephedrine pills triggered an underlying heart condition, causing her death.

We need to stand up for the 11 high school, college and professional football players, including Rashidi Wheeler, whose supplement use may have contributed to or caused their deaths in the last year.

The problems we face today are in large part due to Congressional action in the early 1990s. In 1994, Congress passed the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act into law (DSHEA). This bill virtually deregulated the supplement industry.

Prior to 1994, all food, drug and supplement manufacturers had to prove that their products were safe before they could be sold in the U.S. DSHEA created a substantial loophole for dietary supplements by shifting the burden of proof to the FDA. Now the FDA must prove that a dietary supplement is unsafe before it can be banned for sale.

Since 1994, supplement production and sales have exploded. Industry trade groups report that supplement sales reached \$16.8 billion in 2000. Americans are spending billions on products that have not been proven to be safe or effective. The American public deserves better than this. They deserve clear information about the benefits and risks of supplements. My legislation, the Ephedrine Alkaloid Consumer Protection Act and the Dietary Supplement Information Act, will give consumers the information they deserve.

The Ephedrine Alkaloid Consumer Protection Act will give consumers information about the potentially lethal side effects and drug

interactions of ephedrine alkaloid products. First, it will require a standardized warning to be printed on the label. The bill will also make sure that consumers know how to report any concerns or adverse reactions by requiring the FDA's MedWatch phone number and website to be printed on the product label. Finally, the bill will protect our kids by prohibiting the sale of ephedrine to minors. No person under the age of 18 years old will be able to buy ephedrine products.

To ensure that this provision is enforced, we will require the products to be kept "behind the counter" so that sales personnel are more aware of the age restriction. Putting the product behind the counter will also make adults more aware of the dangers of Ephedrine products. If they have to ask for assistance to get the product, they will be more likely to read the warning label and talk to the pharmacist or seller about Ephedrine.

My second bill, the Dietary Supplement Information Act, addresses many of the public health and safety concerns about the lack of information and regulation of products defined as dietary supplements. First, manufacturers, producers and distributors of dietary supplements will be required to register with the Food and Drug Administration. Manufacturers will also be required to register their specific products with the FDA. The supplement industry will be required to submit all serious adverse event reports to the FDA within 15 days. Supplement manufacturers and the FDA will work as partners to investigate and analyze these reports. To make sure that consumers know how to report an incident to the FDA directly, my legislation will require the FDA's MedWatch phone number and website to be printed on all dietary supplement product labels. If the FDA determines that a specific supplement may have serious health consequences, it can require the manufacturer to do a postmarket surveillance study to ensure that the product is safe.

I want to make it very clear that my legislation will *not* ban dietary supplements. However, consumers have a right to know the benefits and risks of the supplements they are taking. We cannot continue to stand on the sidelines and watch consumers suffer serious medical consequences from these products. I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me into passing these two bills swiftly into law.

IN MEMORIAM—CHARLES DAVID MANKINS, MARK VERNON RICH, RICHARD LEE TENENOFF

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2001*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 6, 2001, the family and friends of Dave Mankins, Mark Rich and Rick Tenenoff, three New Tribes Missionaries, gathered in Central Florida to celebrate their lives, work and service to our Lord. On January 31, 1993 they were taken from their families in the Darien jungles of Panama by Colombian guerillas. These missionaries had come to Central America to minister with a message of peace

and love of God. They were held captive in Colombia and died at the hands of their captors in 1996.

Their heroic wives, Nancy Mankins, Tania Rich and Patti Tenenoff and New Tribes Mission officials made every possible effort to secure the release or learn the fate of their husbands and colleagues. Only recent accounts by guerilla defectors have validated reports that the men were killed in 1996.

Over the past 8 years it has been my honor to work with the wives of these three missionaries. They were unrelenting in their quest to secure the return of their husbands to their families and freedom. They brought their message of hope for the release of their loved ones to presidents, ministers, heads of state, ambassadors and to international organizations. They mounted an unprecedented campaign to free their husbands based on determination and faith. Over the years and through most difficult times, Nancy, Tania and Patti demonstrated an unparalleled love for their husbands and trust in God. They are true heroes who are now left to raise their children and comfort their families. To each of these extraordinary wives, their children and their families, I extend my deepest sympathy.

While we mourn the loss of these three devoted missionaries, we also celebrate their lives. Today with hate, distrust and anger in the world, it is a consolation to know that three men have sacrificed their lives in order to spread a message of faith in God, hope and love. Today in the United States Congress we remember and pay tribute to Dave Mankins, survived by his wife Nancy and their children Chad and Sarah; to Mark Rich, survived by his wife Tania and their daughters Tamra and Jessica; and to Rick Tenenoff, survived by his wife Patti and their children Dora, Connie and Lee.

APCD FORUM OFFERS RARE  
OPPORTUNITY TO CHINA

**HON. TOM DELAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2001*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum in Shanghai will tell us a great deal about the Communist Chinese leadership's true intentions for engagement with the world. Specifically, the question is whether or not China embraces the moment by allowing full participation from member states with a common interest in advancing trade, encouraging investment, and expanding economic growth around the Pacific Rim.

Although they haven't yet invited President Chen of Taiwan to attend the APEC Forum, the Communist leaders in Beijing can still demonstrate that they are serious about addressing and eventually resolving their differences with Taiwan in a thoughtful, productive, and enlightened way by offering President Chen a chance to join other leaders at the table of consultation and negotiation.

Beijing should take this opportunity to broaden their approach and lower tensions in the region by extending an invitation to President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to attend the